

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 6 without my signature.

I share the Legislature's concern over the cost of providing health care to prisoners. The Department of Corrections has been reviewing and implementing a number of policies designed to address this issue, including a number of recommendations that were made by the State Auditor.

The Department of General Services is currently engaged in a deliberative process to evaluate the competitive bidding exemption for medical services with all of the agencies that have utilized the exemption in the past, including the Department of Corrections. This bill will circumvent this collaborative effort currently underway, which is scheduled to be concluded by the end of the year.

In addition, the bill creates potential added liability to the state based on the fact that even emergency contracts must go through a competitive bid process. This could lead to additional litigation against the state, if the delivery or availability of medical services to inmates is delayed or restricted.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger